

March 24, 1975

SENATOR SYAS: Well I'm just curious about this whole thing. I've heard rural Nebraska tell me time and time again they're short veterinarians. Today I see rural Nebraska's sit in here and they won't say anything about this bill, whether they're short veterinarians or not, other than Senator Kennedy. Now I'm a city boy, but I have followed this for years. One time the veterinarians wanted to have a closed shop, that is everybody had to belong. That didn't get through this Legislature. Now if we are short veterinarians then we should make it so the young people, young veterinarians, would come in here. Now I had a veterinarian several years ago, and of course this is old stuff. I was told when the exam was given part of it was not written, part of it was verbal. He said all they had to do was flunk you on the verbal part if they wanted to because they could hold you out that way if they figured they had enough vets in the state. I don't know . . . you see I understand in veterinarian college you sometimes major in large or small animals. If you come in here and majored in small animals, they give you the large animal test. I mean . . . if they don't want any more vets in. All through this debate I know the fees and all that and what the bill is all about. I'm trying to find out one thing and I've been probably half an hour and we haven't had . . . is there a shortage of veterinarians in the State of Nebraska? Will someone from rural Nebraska answer that question just yes or no, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kime.

SENATOR KIME: Mr. Chairman, I think we've gone over this quite a little bit. I move the debate cease.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall debate cease. Record your vote. Record Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 7 nays, 21 not voting.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Senator Schmit do you want to speak on this non-controversial bill.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well Mr. President, members of the Legislature, only to satisfy Senator Syas and I think it's a pretty good demonstration of how we can spin our wheels a long while over a bill that should have moved across the board. This is of no disrespect to my urban colleagues who wanted to be better informed about this. It's a simple fee process and we have a board which determines whether or not people are competent. This does not mean that someone could not practice here in Nebraska. Granted, these young men have to attend schools outside of the state. I think the livestock industry in Nebraska is important enough that we have a responsibility to determine competency. The fact that some state might rubberstamp someone and send them to practice in this state does not mean that we should subject our industry to that kind of an individual. I'm not saying that it would happen, but I'm saying that it could happen. I'm pointing out that in many areas less important than the livestock industry do we require testing for competence. I see nothing wrong with requiring that a veterinarian take a test for competence. I could